HACKENSOCK FOLK KEPT FROM CHURCH BY THE REPTILES.

Terraradous Stortes Gathered by a Reporter A Procession of 8,000 Garter Sunker Which Took Seven Minutes to Pass By-Faitlemakes Abound Around Englewood -Lew Honkins's Bace with One-A Green Spot friehmon's Adventure with a Moon Sanke Which He Mistock for a Bleyele-Copperhends at Berges Point,

New Jersey is suffering from a plague of snages. Every road and pathway in the village districts and even the city streets are infested ty the reptiles. There are black snakes and green snakes, and red snakes, snakes which are intefinite in color, and snakes which combine a'l the hues of the rainbow. All kinds are represpected, from the minutest carter snake wrig I'ng turough the grass like a silken thread a exercis tints to the hideous and formidable resides, which will not besitate to block a man's bein ween aroused. The New Jersey people say t .- t the almost unprecedented drought is re at engine for this visitation, the serpents being iciven from their native lills by want of water The nee persons who say that it is not so much in 2 of water as superabundance of othe Louida that is responsible for the snake stories ne valle in the mosquito State.

har bat as it may, the fact remains that from "I par a of the State, from Absecom and Atlan-" : Fughian is, from Banks Mills, Borgen Point, and Hound Brook, from Crammertown, Elizabe in Hackensnek, Green Spot, and Oney's Hat from Youpob, Serapetown, Polity, Muillea Ireland Mills, Jersey City, Four Mile, Norark, Good Intent, Dutch Neck, Frequency come weigh tales of the foots runners, which, finding it a long time lacen drinks on the highlands, have come down to the flat country, inhabited ner to chousands, and are rapidly driving the lubalifrants into hysteria or delirium as according to sex. There are rattleotto: snakes, hoop snakes, ring snakes, to the water adders, black makes, milk - it mer, slow snakes, and snakes which, erription, have never yet been del and must be a peculiar product of be ever no inhabitant has everyed a e many superior a bon constrictor, or a plesteas it likely to happen any day now that all of these species will make their appear-

an in in the afflicted State across the river. Of course, Hackensack leads in the snake line. Hackensack is one or those places which always has everything a little worse or a little better, generally the former, than ony other place in the world. It appears that on Saturday evening five Hackensack girls started out on a tramp. with the intention of gathering some wild flowers. They carried baskets for the flowers and clubs as protection against possible tramps mosquitoes. A broad meadow at the foot of a hill, about a mile from the town, seemed favorable for botanizing, so they climbed the fence and began filling their baskets with owers. One of the girls, happening to lowerd the hill, saw a cloud of dust which to be moving down a seldom travelled

wild flowers. One of the girls, happening to giance toward the hill, saw a cloud of dust which seemed to be moving down a seldom travelled road on the hillside.

'Oh, girls," she cried to her companions, "Look, there's something coming."

Much alarmed, the botanists scrambled out lato the road, and every eye was turned upon the approaching dust cloud. Look and listen as they might, no sight or sound to explain the phenomenon could be seen or heard. Nearer and nearer came the dust cloud. Motionless with wonder, alarm, and curiosity, the little party stood still, until underneath that dusty curtain appeared a writhing movement.

'Sna-a-a-ske," shrieked one of the girls. She hurled her mosquite club at the advancing line and fled, tollowed by the others. The club bit a cow in an adjoining field, and the cow inmped the fence into the road, impeding the progress of the serpent line. This was fortunate for the five girls, who thus got a good start.

Three minutes later a farmer and his son, who were in the field, were amaged by the signt of five young women frantically galloping down the road and shouting:

"Help, ! Folice! Help: Snakes! Murder!"

Running into the road, they stopped the fingitives and led then into a barn, where the girls changed into the hayloft and promptly developed five distinct species of hysteric. Then the two men went back to the road and valued for the snakes. They appeared to be all garter and will smakes, of there was little to fear, but after killing the advance guard of the army the farmers found the work thresome and stepped one side, leaving tree highway to the travellers. According to testimony it took seven minutes for those anakes to get by, and they numbered, by conservative commutation, about 8,000. This is Hackensack testimony and they numbered when hase, and the church attendance was thereby affected largely, the women particularly being affail to venture out of doors. The five botanists, who returned in a feeble condition and the farger's wagon size now organizing a still child

Hackensack was fortunate in having the non-venomous varieties. Not so lucky is the region around Englewood. There the inhabitants are complaining of rattleenakes, and three or four barrow escapes are recorded. One of the loyest stories toth is that about Lew Hoskins, who lives about a mile from Englewood. He was returning home on Monday night when he beard a loud rattling in the disch at one side of the road. As he looked about in alarm two fery red eyes appeared. It was so dark that Lew couldn't see snything clse; but he threw a york at the eyes on general principles. Then he hastily stepped over to the other side of the road. The roal eyes moved after him. He wastled rapidly away, but to his horror the two fery spots moved after him still faster. Lew broke into a run, and then began such a race as he hopes he may never take part in again.

He was about half a mile from home, and he started at a good fast pace, but he couldn't stake off his pursuer. He sprinted; so did the spake, and the worst of it was that when Lew's shortness of breath caused him to relax his pace tip spake went right on sprinting. He was close hope his prey, when Lew leagued to one side, and the rattler struck, but hit only empty arr, 'That broke his stride, or rather his wrigge, giving the terrified man an opportunity to get snother start. Hissing with rage the serpent fook up the chase again, but the man seeing the light in his window only a short distance ahead, ran with renewed courage. Breathless and ready to drop he burst in af the door, alarmined it after him, and cried:

"Now, says out there till I get my gun." A crashing of glass followed. The rattler had struck at the window and shattered it. Hoskins solved a club and awaited shother attack, but the reptile probably had our limeelf, for he made no more attempts to break in, and the last that was heard of him was the sound of his wriggling through the grass toward the road. Hoskins and his family are afrail that the serpent is in hilling about the place awaiting a favorable operun

As the object neared him, the frishman saw a pair of gleaming eyes, now uppermost, now undermost, but always fixed on him, and no recognized, with an unpleasant feeling, that his wheel was re-snake which, with its tall in its hooks and ran, but his course lay nawn a steep grade, and, seeing that he would soon he over-laken, in resorted to strategy. He slowed up this his pursuer was close upon him, then gripping his sitch he leaped to one side. The heap broke rulled past, and before it could uncell. This was upon 1, and sent it somning above with a

was up in P. and sent it spinning along with a good blow from his sick.

"Yes with he a bone bifft, wait yez?" he cried. "Yes with he a bone bifft, wait yez?" he cried. "Yes with red after a decent man crack, hey? Yes with roll after a decent man crack, hey? Yes with the chair front av him how plank. I'll thay hoop wid yez (hip. which, biff, plank, crack)."

Morrity west the chase down the hills, the astimate hoop hissing in rage, but unable to get a chaince to uncoll, until Tim, becoming weary, each about him for a chaince to end the run. A pass arrithmed the solution. With a final whack, he rolled the unfortunate hoop anake in, and price coled on his way, relating to tell to its assorbed at fellow residents of forces. Spot the tale of his strange adventure.

Unan other storms are told to pursuits of and by serious. Everywhere the shakes seemed ready to attack. A huge milk shake chased a farmer into Acw Bronswick last week. Three small loops from Bergen Point ran into a family of experiments of Atlantic Highlands is displayed a fractured worse alkaged to have been seen to untaltime of Atlantic Highlands is displayed a fractured worse alkaged to have been seen by a point an opportunity along an employee we was uttacked by a black, and he which added the state of his select that the waiting along an employee with the waiting along

THRASHER AND THE BLACKSNAKE. The Sanke Had Lots of Fon With the Old

Dog and the Mistress on Well. SCHASTON, Aug. 25. - Thrasher, an aged mon rel dog belonging to Mr. Phineas B. Croft of the Polono plateau, had an experience early in the summer that made life a burden to him for a time. The old dog is fat, shaggy, and grizzly, and it was his habit in pleasant weather to sleep on the grass in the shady dooryard a good part of the day. Thrasher had outlived the yelping period, and the passing of a vehicle or stray ow along the road never disturbed him.

One morning in June Mrs. Croft heard Thrasher snarling and barking furiously in the yard, and on rushing out to see what the trouble was she found him jumping against the door yard fence as if he wanted to get at something in the coad. There was nothing in sight that ould possibly have annoyed the old dog, and Mrs. Cooff couldn't account for his strange ac-It was plain that he had seen or heard omething, for he hadn't growled or dashed round like that before in more than a year, and he was stirred up to such an extent that it took Mrs. Croft several minutes to quiet him.

In the afternoon Thrasher went through with the same tantrums again. He had been sound asleen a moment before, Mrs. Croft noticed, and when she rished to the door she saw a blacksnake racing up and down the road in front of the noisy old dog, with its head about a foot above the ground. At sight of her the snake glided through the fence on the opposite side of the road and disappeared in the tall mendow grass. It was evident that the blocksnake had molested Thrasher, but in what way Mrs. Croft couldn't make out. The old dog was n such a rage that Mrs. Croft was unable to get him to lie down again that afternoon.

During the following week Thrasher was aroused a number of times. He couldn't get brough the fences, and Mrs. Croft caught glimpses of a blackspake kiting down the road she ran out to the yard. One morning the troublesome blacksnake turned about at a small bridge a few yards below the house, ran close to the fence, against which the dog was jumping, and acted as if it was doing its best to tense him It hissed as it passed him, and it carried its head several inches in the air. Mrs. Croft chased the snake, but it ran twice as fast as she could, and it went out of sight in a patch of brakes.

A day or so later the dog broke through the gate in trying to get at the worrisome blacksnake. He chased it up the road, but he was too fat and old to run much, and the blacksnake tantalized him by wheeling about and dashing past him five or six times. Mrs. Croft was out with her broom, and when she made a pass at the sanke with it the agile reptile dodged like a flash, and glided over a stone wall into a field of outs. She followed it, and whenever she tried to strike it with the broom it ducked its head and got away from her, lifting its head above the cats a few yards beyond. Mrs. Croft said she tuckered herself out endeavoring to destroy

Thrasher's annoyer, but the snake finally took retuge in a brush heap, and she had to give up.

The manner in which the snake had aroused the old dog so many times remained a mystery until nearly a week afterward, when Mrs. Croft had awarden to do some order of the control of

The manner in white the shake had aroused the oid dog so many times remained a mystery until nearly a week afterward, when Mrs. Croft had occasion to do some work at an open window that overlooked Thrasher's snoozing spot. On glancing out Mrs. Croft saw a movement in some tall timothy blades just over the fence, and a moment later she spied a blacksnake crawling between the boards. When the reptile got into the yard it raised its head and took a quick look at the sleeping dog, and then, before Mrs. Croft had time to think how to act, the cunning snake stole up to Thrasher, crawled under his neck, colled liself around the neck twice, gave it a quick choke, and then uncoiled in a twinkling and glided into the road. The old dog sprang up and began to yelp and jump against the tence, but the snake was out of sight when Mrs. Croft ran out with her broom. The blacksnake pestered the peaceable old dog several times faore in the same way before Thrasher thought of a plan to get the best of the bothersome reptile. One morning the blacksnake came within an ace of choking the dog. He was unable to bark or jump when the snake unwound itself from his neck, and during the rest of the day he lay in the house and did some hard thinking. At any rate, he didn't sleep as much as he had been accustomed to do in the yard, and from what occurred the next day Mrs. Croft was of the opinion that the old dog had thought a good deal while he lay awake. On the following morning, soon after Mr. Croft had gone to work in the hay field, Mrs. Croft saw Thrasher dragging an old, fadedout buffalo skin from the barn toward the dog: "Thrasher, what in the world are you going to do with that?"

The dog whited, wagged his tail, and gave her

yard. She rushed out and shouted to the dog:

"Thresher, what in the world are you going to
do with that?"

The dog whined, wagged his tail, and gave her
such a pitiful look that she didn't have the
heart to order him to go back; so she went into
the house and watched him. Thrasher immediately dragged the hide to his sleeping place,
where he pawed it around and yanked it about
with his teeth for several minutes. At length
he worked it up into a couple of hunches, eyed it
from all sides, and presently crept under the
porch, a few feet away. The dusty buffalo fur
was of the same color as the old dog's shaggy
coat, and from the window it looked very much
like Thrasher lying there in the grass.

Mrs. Croft couldn't make out why the dog
acted in that way, so she put aside her work and
watched for him to rea pear. She said she expected to see him drag the skin back to the
barn shortly, but nearly an hour passed, and the
old fellow stayed underneath the flooring.

All at once Mrs. Croft saw the blackanake

barn shortly, but nearly an hour passed, and the old fellow stayed underneath the flooring.

All at once Mrs. Croft saw the blacksnake steal from the high grass in the meadow and glide swiftly toward the buffalo skin. Instantly the snake threw its long body into a coil around a furry hump in the skin, and the next instant Thrasher bounded from under the porch, caught the snake by the neck, shook and tormented it for some time, and finally killed it in the chipyard. As soooh as the cumning old dog had made sure that the amonying reptile had no life in it, he dragged the buffalo skin back to the baru and went to sleep on his favorite resting ru and went to sleep on his favorite place to the grass.

FARMYARD RATTLES ROYAL.

Gamecock and Sparrows Tackle a Hawk-Robins and Sparrows Wage War.

SCRANTON, Aug. 19.- While Farmer Jacob A. Scrum of Meadow Run was noting the capers of brood of week-old game chickens one day this summer a flock of English sparrows alighted in front of the coop and began to eat the dough. One of the chickens immediately showed its thorough breeding by spurting up to a sparrow and giving battle to it. Three other sparrows ook their companion's part at once by pitching into the spunky chicken, but the little creature, olthough it was only a week old, knocked the sparrows about until they squaled with anger. The chicken was so spry on its feet and with its bill that it quickly put the meddlesome birds to flight, but they returned with recnforcements, and the wary chicken skipped into the coop. On seeing that their little antagonist had run

to shelter, the sparrows stopped their noise and began to peck at the dough again. Mr. Scrum was watching for the chi-ken to come out and renew its battle with the birds, when all of a sudden the sparrows flew up and went squalling to the opposite end of the yard, where Mr. Scrum's boss gamecock Met was squawking out notes of alarm in his highest key.

A hawk that had just dived into the yard and

set its claws into the back of a half-grown chicken was the cause of the rooster's noise, as well as of that of the sparrows. Met and the sparrows sailed into the hawk in great shape before it, could rise, and they hammered it so hard that it became dazed. In trying to escape from the spurs of the rooster and the bills of the sparspure of the rossier and the bins of the spar-rows the hawk ran its head through some wire netting that served as a fonce and gut fast in it. While the hawk was flapping its wings in a vain endeavor to get loose, the robster ran under the fence like a flash and started to Jab his spura-into the hig bird's head. The sparrows contin-ned to tackle it in the rear, but Met's were the only blows that told, and in a few minutes the plucky rooster blinded the hawk, set a spur into each side of its head, and killed it. A colony of English sparrows took up their abode this season on Ovid Lane's place, in Ran-som. They were the first English sparrows that Mr. Lane had ever seen on his farm, and he was friendly to them until he saw how mean they were to other birds. In June a pair of rishins had a nest of young ones on a cornice of the louse. One morning, while the female Mr. Lane had ever seen us he saw how mean they were to other birds. In June a pair of robins had a nest of young ones on a cornice of the house. One morning, while the female robin was gathering worms in the garden for her young. Mr. Lane saw five sparrows tackle her and classe her to the nest. She had her bill flied with worms, but the attack of the sparrows was so flerce that she was forced to drop them, and she fought them off from her nest until her mate; anne and drove them away. Mr. Lane said that the missrable sparrows must have decided to make mother robin's life unhappy, for they tackled her again within an abour, made her drop her food, and followed her to the nest, where she had to fight like sixty to keep them from harming her young ones.

Her cries brought her mate and two other robins to the spot and the way they whaled the foreign intradices was interesting. Mr. Lane said. From that time on, the robins waged a daily warfare with the sparrows. Whenever a sparrow chirped a robin made for it, and if it couldn't lifet the sparrows and its commatice, it soos got help snough to do so most thoroughly. The robins destroyed the nests of the sparrows, and by the middle of July they missle life so missishe foothers that they disappeared from the farm are harvest some LEARNING AROUT SNAKES

Same Interesting Things Jim Bennett Has Found Out and Told Bencon Neurons. "No," said Deacon William Henry Nearpass of the Port Jereis Gazette, "there haven't beer many snakes up through our country this season, but there never were so many snake stories I have learned more about snakes this season since Jim Bennett has been travelling through Pike county, Sussex county, and Sullivan county, than ever happened to snakes since that one that cut up the caper in the Garden of Eden. Now, ever since I can remember, the copperhead snake has been called the pilot through our balliwick, and no body ever knew why. But Jim Bennett has found out the reason. Nobody told him. He found it out himself. He was going along so where over in Pike county, and by and by he saw a snake coming down the road. It was coming pretty fast, and it seemed to be such a long snake that dim stopped to have r good look at it. When it got near to him he recognized it as a pilot.

But, merciful schooners!' said Jim, 'it's the longest pilot Lever saw? "Then the pilot went by him terrible fast, and lim saw that it wasn't all pilot. It was three feet of pilot and five feet of rattlesnake. The rattlesnake had hold of the pilot's tail with its teeth, and looked half seared to death. Jim could see that the pilot snake was towing the rattler, and that set him to thinking. The pilot went by like a flash, towing the rattlesnake, and turned off the road when it had gone a rod or so. Then it jumped upon the top rail of a fence, pulling the rattler with it, glided along a few feet, then dropped down on the other side into a hollow stump. It left the rattlesnake there and went off across the field.

"Jim kept on thinking, and pretty soon along came a blacksnake-a blacksnake more than eight feet long, Jim said. Jim knew that blacksnakes are death on rattiers, and that rattiers can't get along over the ground very fast. And he knew that pilots can travel like a railroad train, but not as fast as blacksnakes. So by the time the blacksnake had flashed by in the wake of the pilot and the rattler Jun had thought out a heap. He remembered that rattlesnakes are near sighted as well as slow, and that pilots have eyes like hawks as well as being swift.

Then he remembered that pilots were always around where rattlesnakes are, and then he had the whole thing thought out. Pilots were called pilots because they are the guides and protectors

pilots because they are the guides and protectors of rattlesnakes, and when they discover a rattler threatened with danger they lose no time in yanking him or towing him to a safe piace.

"That was what the pilot was doing for that rattler the day Jim Bennett met them over in Pike county somewhere, with the blacksnake on their trail.

"Then, again, the other day, Mrs. Van Patten, who lives in Port Jervis, was with some friends at Sand Pond. She was sitting on a rock, when she saw a snake come along, walking right on the end of its tail, and acting real angry. While she was running it over in her mind that this was a queer way for a snake to be acting, another one just like it, and dancing and prancing, and balancing likeli on its tail in just the same way, came along by the rock. Mrs. Van Patten was only a yard distant from the snakes, and so she saw them plain. They fought and bit and scrambled with each other, and hissed and stuck out their tongues in a way that ought to have been a caution to snakes. Hy and by Mrs. Van Patten drew the attention of her husband to the fighting snakes, and he came up and killed them. When Jim Bennett heard of this he was annoyed. He said it beat all how some folks didn't know anything about snakes and didn't want to learn. He said the two fighting snakes were pilots of the sterner sex, and that they were engaged in a duel over a lady pilot, which was in ambush near by, a witness of the fight.

"If the snakes had been left to have their duel out. Jim says, one would soon have killed the other, and then the lady copperhead would have come out of ambush, circled around the dead snake, and acted as if she had it on her mind to say to him, 'You're no good,' and then gone off with the victor as chipper as could be. Jim Bennett was all worked up over the killing of those two duelling pilots. He said it wasn't treating one of them right.

"It's queer, the luck that Jim has in seeing things that give him information about snakes. Only the other day he was on his way somewhere or other a

where or other and heard a great commotion in a farmyard. He looked that way, and saw a sirl, a cat, and a rattleanake. Jim says he saw a tonce that the rattleanake was after the cat, and that the girl was on the way to save it. She had a big stone in her hand. She was going to throw it at the snake. Jim knew that if the girl carried out her intention she might just as well let the snake kill the cat, so he yelled:

"Throw at the cat! Throw at the cat!"

"The sat was more thus len feet, from the

made up his mind that the snake was charming the cat. He didn't like to think so, for he had always held that snakes can't charm anything. So when he hollered at the girl, who was putting her cat in double danger by intend-ing to throw a stone at the snake, and she threw at the cat instead and hit the snake, he walked over to investigate. He was glad he did. He found a live mouse held by the tail in the snake's mouth. The snake had been using the mouse to lure the cat close enough to catch her

4 \$40.000.000 FLOOD.

Great Engineering Operation.

HAZLETON, Pa., Aug. 20. Up to January, 1886, the coal mining villages of Ebervale and Hareigh, three miles from Hazleton, were among the most bustling and thriving towns in the Lehigh region. They were named after the two vast collieries to which they owed their existence and over which they were built. The mines were among the deepest in the valley. infortunately for the mines and the villages. the workings had above them the waters of creek. There was a connection between the two mines. Careless mining is by no means an unknown quantity anywhere in the authracite regions, in spite of legislation intended to prevent it, and of the danger of loss it constantly threatens not only to life but also to property. The Ebervale and Harleigh mines were no exeption to the rule, and as a congequence previous to 1886 there had been several serious rave-ins and other portents of disaster at both collieries. The ronsequence of there most feared was the opening of a fissure by which the waters of the creek might be dropped into the mines. The companies that owned the mines made an effort to prevent this by doing away with the creek. They dug a canal, through which they intended to drain the waters of the creek into another and a harmless channel. By January, 1886, this canal was almost completed. In another

and a harmless channel. By January, 1880, this canal was almost completed. In another fortnight the danger from the creek would have been past. But cold weather clogged the stream with ice and snow, and while it was in that condition a heavy rain came and lasted several days. The channel was insufficient to carry off the flood that ensued, and the water broke into the Harleigh mine.

The entire stream poured into the tunnels and chambers and rushed to the Ebervale mine. In time the water not only filled the mines to their roofs, but also overflowed from the shaft mouths and made lakes on the surface.

By none of the usual ways of relieving a flooded mine of water was it possible to drain the Harleigh and Ebervale mines, and they and the Harleigh and Ebervale mines, and they and the Harleigh and Ebervale mines, so the flood. The two villages were descried by their 3,000 inhabitants. Rushness places, residences, shops were given over to decay. Never in the history of coal mining in the anthracite field did such absolute desalation and ruin follow disaster as came to Ebervale and Harleigh.

Four years ago it was suggested that the miness might be drained by tunnelling the mountain between Butler Valley and the valley of the Nescopeck River, turning the water into the latter stream. As this would require nearly four miles of tunnel through sold rock, besides branch tunnels aggreeating a mile of similar difficult drilling, the plan was rejected as impracticable by the colliery companies. But it still had advocates among mining engineers, and at last a company was formed to undertake the great work. A contractor bold enough to attempt to carry out the plane was found in Charles F. King of Schuyikii county. He began the work in March, 1891. The tunnel is now within two weeks of completion. It is 7 feet deep by 11 wide. At the depth of 1,400 feet it passes through nearly 20,000 feet of the time over a war before the colliers are in shale for resuming operations. The coast of the tunnel will be several millium desians.

A NEW SORT OF WAR SHIP.

France Launches a Vessel of a New Type. The Carnot, a new armored vessel for the French navy, has just been launched at Toulon. The ship was built on the plans of M. de Sagilo. director of naval construction, and the late President Carnot fastened the first bolt. It range guns, and six rapid-fire guns on the upper decks. The turrets are protected by armor six teen inches thick. The exterior armor will rest on a backing of teak eleven inches thick and

will be seventeen inches thick.

She is expected to make 17 knots an hour. She will have two vertical triple-expansion engines, with a maximum of 13,000 horse power, constructed according to the plans of M. Garnier,



was to have been called the Lazare Carnot, after his great-grandfather.

Sub-director of Naval Construction at Toulon, Steam will be generated by 24 cylindrical boilers, with double grates, on the Lagratel and d'Allest system, registering 33 pounds. The

parallel walls, deverailed into each other without a break as far up as the armored plate. The puble hall is divided lengthwise by seven par titions; it has five longitudinal bulkheads and whiteen transverse bulk beads. There are three decks, the armored deck, the

gun deck, and the main deck. The armored hurricane deck is constructed of a double thickness of sheet-fron 4-10 of an Inch thick, and covered with armor 3 inches thick. The length of the vessel between perpendiculars is 364 feet; its breadth 60 feet.

The armament of the Carnot will consist of two twelve-inch guns in the forward and cen tral turrets of the vessel, two turrets for the ten and a half-inch guns, eight turrets, four on either side, for the five-and-a-half-inch long-

THE FAR EASTERN WAR.

The Italian Proclamation of Neutrality Between China and Japan Its Origin and Meaning The First Symptoms of the Inextrable Collision Over the Corean Ques tion Between British Interests and Russian Purposes. The British Fing at Hong Kong a Danger Signal for the Future,

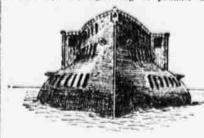
MILAN, Aug. 12. The Italian Government, the cable will doubtless have told you, has just proclaimed its neutrality as between the two great Asiatic powers now entering up macon-flict the issues and eventual complications of which few men with heads on their shoulders will be over-swift to forecast. There appears to be no particular reason why Italy should be anxious to put herself "right on the record" in this matter at its present stage of development. Italy has no special interests of importance in orthern and central Asia or in the northern Pacific waters. But the Italian Government. and one of the great Italian steamship companies, have seagoing vessels of which one and the other would be very glad to dispose on advantageous terms, and the Chinese Government is already making efforts to increase its fleet both for fighting purposes and for transportation, and so far as it goes, therefore, this early Italian proclamation of neutrality is likely to inure to the benefit of Japan by restricting the market in which China can provide herself with ships.

The empire of the Mikado has been well served of late by its diplomatic agents in Europe, and as it is an open secret that the British Government is distinctly favorable to the interests of Chins, the Italian proclamation of neutrality is interpreted by well-informed persons as an indication that Italy is alive to the practical unwisiom of allowing berself to drift in tow of Great Britain, as regards the impending imbrogliowhich threatens the relations of the great European powers in the far East. The step now taken at Rome has pretty certainly been taken after an understanding on the subject with the Governments of Berlin and Vienna. It is putting no forced construction upon it to say that it points to a distinct intention on the part of the Printe Alliance to stand together as long as possible outside of the antagonism which must almost certainly be developed at no distant day out of the Chino-Japanese war between Great Britain on the one side and Russia on the other. France, which has very serious interests in the far East, in the southern Chinese waters, and on the southern frontier of China, is already giving no equivocal signs of her disposition to make common cause with Russia.

And while the British Government is some what ostentatiously conducting negotiations with Great Britain for a general European neutrality, the most influential Russian newspapers, such as the Nacoe Vremun, are publishing articles, plainly unfriendly to Great Britain, in which they go almost to the point of charging the British Government with a deliberate attempt, under the mask of a general neutrality, now be allowed to appear in Russia, if they are out of accord with the real opinions and aims of the Russian Government. Their object obviously is to prepare public opinion in Russia for the moment at which events may make it necessary for the Russian Government to intervene effectively in the Corean quarrel and against the pretensions of England in that part of the world. What really concerns Russia for the time being in this war between China and Japan is to se cure for herself the possession of a northern Pacific port, accessible throughout the year, and to prevent the acquisition of any such port by Great Britain. If your readers will bear thi steadily in mind and watch the development of events in the far East from this point of view. they will perhaps get a more intelligent and practical notion of what is passing and likely to pass on the northern Pacific than they are likely to get from the British press or from despatches hich come to Europe and America by cables from the far East, all of them more or less com-

pletely under the control of British capitalists, The kingdom of Corea is not a nominal de pendency of the Chinese empire. As a matter of fact, those parts of the kingdom of Corea in which something like civilization exists, and which have some sort of commercial and financial importance, are much more closely connected with the active, ambitious, and enterprising empire of Japan than with the Chinese and the Chinese Government. If as an outcome of the existing hostilities the Government at Pekin should succeed in converting Corea from a nominally independent tributary kingdom into a real province of the Chinese empire, it will rest with China, and not with Corea, to give or to refuse to any European power the right to occupy and fortify a Corean port. If, on the other hand, Japan succeeds in overthrowing the Chinese forces in Corea, and in maintaining under Japanese power and protection the nominal independence of Cores, the negotiations of any European power bent on occupying and fortify-ing a Corean port will be carried on with the Japanese Government, Japan is not likely, in any event, to commit herself to a policy of annexation in Cores. Her real purposes, as things low look, will be much better served by the session of a real protectorate over an independent Corean kingdom than by any attempt to hold Corea as a Japanese province. The more completely Great Britain commits

herself and is committed to the Chinese side of this great quarrel, the less likely it becomes that in the end any Corean port will pass under the English flag. Were China, with the secret help of Great Britain, to maintain by arms her suzerainty over Cores, drive the Japanese back into the sea, and even reduce force openly to the condition of a Chinese province, any attempt on part to pay off her obligations to Great Britain, by allowing the British to occupy a Corean port, would bring her into instant collision with Russia; and all the probabilities are that the assute Chinese, were they victorious, would have little trouble in inventing plausible grounds for breaking faith with their British friends, and avoiding a dangerous grapple with the nower of the Muscovite Caar. On the other hand, if the Jananese are victorious, with the help, accret or open, of Russia, it will be quite easy for them, without any loss of national prestige or importance, to reward the Russian and strengthen their own position in the northern Parlife by turning over a Corean port to the Russian flag. It is in view as I have reason to believe, of these features in the existing situation in the far East that the tioveriments of the Triple Alliance, at Berlin, Visnus, and Rome, are now acting logether in the scase indicated by the Italian growlamation of neutrality. Their object is to keep themselves as far as possible from any premature entanglement in the far East danted to the strengthen there. rean port, would bring her into instant collision have little frouble in inventing plausible grounds for breaking faith with their British friends, and avoiding a dangerous grapple with friends, and avoiding a dangerous grapple with the newer of the Muscovite Czar. On the other hand, if the Janances are victorious with the help, secret or open, of Russia, it will be quite easy for them, without any loss of national pressure or importance, to reward the Russians and strengthen their own position in the northern Pacific by turning over a Corean part to the Russian fag. It is in view, as I have reason to believe, of these features in the existing situation in the far East that the Governments of the Triple Alliance, all Berlin. Vienus, and from a renew acting together in the sense indicated by the Italian precise in the sense indicated by the Italian precisemmation of neutrality. Their object is to keep themselves as far as possible from any premature entanglement in this far Easten dispute, so that at the proper time they may be free to throw in their wight, either with



total cost of the vessel will be a little over 21,-

Great Britain or with Russia, when the inevitable collision develops itself between these two great rivals in the far East.

This position of relative freedom, as you can see, will enable the Governments of the Triple Alliance to play their cards in Europe much more couly and effectually. They have nothing to hope, either in the far East or in Europe, from Great Hritain, Italy being the only member of the Triple Alliance which has anything like plausible grounds for seeking or expecting the support of Great Britain in regard to European and African questions, which are of much more importance to Italy than any issues in the Northern Pacific either are now or are likely to become. But they have all three of them, Germany, Austria, and Italy, a great deal to fear in Europe from Russia. Even to Italy it is easily conceivable, now that she has an Italian colony in Africa, that the good will of Russia, as the friend and ally of France, may, at a given moment, be of much greater importance than the good will of great Britain. Hay therefore easily become in the future worth the while of Italy to purchase the good will of Russia by supporting a policy of Russia in the far East, even at the risk of alienating Great Britain.

Furthermore, Italian statesmen, while they know very well that at a given point Russia will always support her diploma; with the sword, are tolerably well convinced that Great Britain is becoming every year less and less likely to draw the sword in support of any interest whatever short of absolute national self-defence. Only the other day at Rome, when the policy of Italy in Africa came up for discussion in consequence of the advance of Gen. Barratieri against the dervishes, and of his victory at Karsala, the Government was significantly reminded by one of its warnest supporters not to lose sight of the fact that tireat Britain had accepted defent by the dervishes at Khartoum, and warned that if Italy undertook a policy of civilization by arms in Africa she had better motions of mine, I venture to

suppose that the British neutral flag at Hong Kong will not cover a great deal of very practical aid and comfort given to China in the war with Japan? Does anybody suppose that the Japanese Government does not already know, or that the Governments of Russia and of France do not know, what sort of "neutrality" the British occupation of Hong Kong inevitably foreshadows in the conflict now begun in the East?

AN AMERICAN TRAVELLER,

MAKING STAGE SCENERY

How Modern Ideas Have Revolutionized The making of stage scenery and accessories has not only become a business of much magni-

tade, but it has developed largely peculiar inventive genius, made a unique field for the exereise of superior artistic talent and facility, and brought into play a high order of mechanical to strengthen the hands of China against Japan. | skill. This entirely independent of the regular rtists and artisans of the great play houses

From one "studio" in New York, devoted to the painting, modelling, and fabricating of such scenery and furniture, a large proportion of the travelling theatrical companies of the country obtain the equipments for their productions, and so completely have the experience and obdirects its affairs subordinated space and bulk to the requirements of stage setting, that the entire scenic outfit of a company, "drops," wings," "borders," and even furniture, may be carried in ordinary wardrobe trunks. It has made the once appalling items of express charges, cartage, extra bargage, and freight of o importance, for a trunk or two may now do the service for an itincrent troupe that it formerly required special baggage cars and scenery trucks to do, and these expenses ran very high up into the hundreds of dohars for the reason.

The invention, if such it may be called, is simply the substitution of aniline dyes for mineral pigments in the colors used on the canvas. The thin but brilliant aniline tints become virtually a part of the canvas itself. The scenery can b folded without injury to its effect, and made to accommodate itself to the convenience of the manager in transportation, and manipulated to the capacity or resources of the singe upon which it is to be used; whereas a canvas spread with color in the old-time way would quickly part with its decorated surface, and become a mottled and meaningless expanse of cloth, if not kept in circum-spect position in transit by

mottled and meaningless expanse of cloth, if not kept in circumspect position in transit by cumbersome frames and unbending braces.

This process of equipping a "show" with its scenery and stage fittings has not only economized in space and cost of transportation, but it has sconomized in the charges for carvas and settings to such an extent that scarvely a town or village large enough to boast of its from hall or an "opera house" has not its gay and comprehensive complement of stock, seemery, furniture, and stage acrossories. To this system of theatrical outfitting is also due the great increase in the number of travelling shows of all kinds, and so, perhaps, it may not be said to have added much to the public benefit.

To one who has an hour to spare nothing could be more interesting than a visit to this imique studio and dramatic outfitting shop. "Anything that any stage carpenter can do, with all his facilities, we can do here, and give him points," the attendant will say, and the space, and the clatter of hammer, and the awish of plane are sufficient to convince one that he knows what he is falking about. He tells you that it the workshop. Take art departments are upstairs. Up one flight a well-knawn modeller in clay is a shoning with a deft hand a beautiful design. Taken and cast in bronze, it would excite admiration and command price, but it is simply a design for a mould into which in its shining gilt and artistic chalestation, which, in its shining gilt and artistic chalestation, will aspect to become later the ornamentation and furnishing of a stage interior, which, in its shining gilt and artistic chalestation, will aspect to the spectator as a costly evidence of some manager's devotion to the truth of history and knowledge of that particular drama's time. Some of the most bewildering, heautiful, and elaborate stage settings—apparently the result of an outlay of thousands of which the drama of to-day may have the assurance to attempt to reflect, that have ever been seen in this city came from this st

NOTES ON SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

The aim of mechanical engineers, as th makers of the steam engine, has been aptly described as consisting in the production of a ma chine that will utilize with the greatest economy the fuel by which the steam is generated. Ac cording to theory, two pounds of coal should oduce seven and one-half horse power, where as in the best engines only one and a half horse power is obtained, the losses being caused by condensation and radiation in the cylinder passages; and it is argued that, by the use of the condensation have been utilized, the water of condensation would be better drawn away, compounding the engine has been a means of improvement, by enabling the boiler to work at high pressure and give the cengine, therefore, a greater expansion, but this, of course, can only be carried to a certain extent. It is arged by authorities in this field of construction that, to further improve the steam engine, a better means of burning the fuel in the boiler must be devised by forced draught, raising the temperature and pressure as far as the material will safely permit, and more conomically utilizing the heat of evaporation through a moderate range of expansion in well-proportioned cylinders. power is obtained, the losses being caused by

Coal mines are now being equipped with a novel kind of barometer of high sensibility and peculiar adaptedness. The apparatus is a foreign invention, and consists of a vertical tube twenty mm, in Interior diameter and about one m. in length, the bottom curved in the ordinary manner the opening at the top, however, being furnished with a steel peg screwed in an Iron collar attached to the tube. A long capillary tube, one mm, in diameter, is fixed at right angles on the large tube, a little above the curved part, and terminates in an open recentacle. on the isrge tube, a little above the curved part, and terminates in an open receptacle. The quantity of mercury is regulated so that the meniscus of mercury presents itself in the middle of the capillary tube. Now, the slightest difference of atmospheric pressure will cause the mercury to rise and act on the capillary column, and a fall of pressure is indicated by the inverse movement of the column. In this way, the increase or decrease of the mercury in the large tube is augmented according to the section of the tubes—in this case as 400 is to 1, so that the variation of 1-400th can thus be noted. If the variation in pressure becomes so great as to cause the remiscus to leave the capillary tube, that may be remedied by screwing or unscrewing the upper peg.

Another gold-saving device is mentioned in the mining papers. Briefly, the airt is dumped m a swinging platform, set on an incline sufficlent with a small head of water assisted by the swinging motion of the platform to cause it to pass into a long, slim box, also set on an incline, and having several sets of riffles. This box has the convenient of a cocker, and the dist as it the rovement of a pocker, and the dirt, as it passes from the platform, falls upon the first raille. The gold, sand, and small gravel drop through to an apron the heavy gravel passing over which overlaps the second riffle, and the water and constant rocking earry the debris and what gold is not caught under the first riffle down through or over the second, and in a like manner over several others, each of these giving the gold a chance to settle. The coarse material passes out of the rocker, over a grizzly, and is dumped. several others, each of these giving the gold a chance to settle. The coarse material passes out of the tesker, over a grizzly, and is dumped, while the sand and gold, if any of the latter has passed the riffles, fall into another box with several departments, lined with plates. Here it is agitated by small streams of water coming in at different directions under a pressure, until all has been brought against the surface of the plates, when the uebris passes from the machine. The motion to the machine is supplied by the water before it reaches the platform, and thus but little water is required to operate it is asserted that no quicksilver can escape, and that the lightest scale gold, not saved in the riffles, cannot escape the plates in the last box.

The problem of securing sound-proof apartments has long taxed the ingenuity of architects and builders, and various plans have been resorted to with various degrees of success. A recent writer, giving the results of some investigations in this line, states that, as regards the floor, a ply of very thick carpet felt underneath the ordinary carpet will, to a certain extent, accomplish the object desired; but to make it really effective, it is essential to lift the floor, and, if there is not already a counter flooring between the joists, it may be af service to fill in on the top of the laths which hold the ceiling underneath with about three inches of silicate of cotton, afterward laying a strip of lair feit on top of each joist, before milling down the floor, such treatment tending to stop all sound in that direction. As regards the walls, they would require to have vertical stude, say one and a haif by one inch, spaced eighteen inches apart, these to be either lathed or covered with wire netting, and the spaces between the lathing and the present plaster filled in with silicate of cotton. The result will be still more satisfactory by providing the fronts of the study with a strip of hair felt in the same manner as indicated for the joists, and the walls, of course, being replastered. the ordinary carpet will, to a certain extent,

An improved kind of motor, contrived by a

Nebraska layentor claimed to be a perfect equalizer and having no dead centres is arranged with semi-circular rocking treadles ose upon the shaft, and having foot lugs upon their ends for the alternate motions of the feet n driving the mechanism. To render the segmental hand lever available, it is required to bange the position of the further treadle and secure both treadles firmly to the shaft, when it may be operated by hand, or power may be appried through the connecting rod. The segmental rocking treadles are connected by short belts with clutch pulleys mounted to rotate loosely on a driving shaft, and on the mass of the clutch pulleys are secured the ends of belts connected with right and left rock wheels on a shaft journalled in the frame, the right rack wheel being connected with the right clutch and the left rocker, or the inverted one, being connected with the left clutch. As the rock wheels are both keyed to the rock shaft, when the right one moves forward the inverted one moves backward. The clutch employed is a sort of ball or roller device, the rollers clutching the outer rim of the clutch wheels as they are drawn forward by entering a wedge-shaped opening between the rim and a centre piece keyed to the shaft, and, when reversing, rolling back against the shoulder in the centre piece.

Much is claimed for an improved cotton compress lately brought forward. It is designed to se used at every gin plant instead of the usual box press, and is placed at the condenser of one or more cotton gin stands, so that it may receive the cotton in the form of a continuous bat as it once from the condenser. This but is carried between rollers and rolled around a central endle, each fibre of cotton being thus subjected to constant pressure from large rollers that are continually pressing on the bale as it gradually grows in size. All the parts of the pounds of cotton to the cubic toot hence oc-cupying far less space than the ordinary com-pressed bale, the latter containing an average of twenty-two and a-half pounds to the cubic-foot. Being cylindrical, the bales are of such density that it is possible to transport them at considerably less cost than if of the former size.

An ingenious resort is reported for doing away with the sucking of the west thread through the eyes in shuttles, which, as is known. has a tendency to produce throat and chest diseases among weavers. This advantage is obtained, it seems, by a simple threader needle or a hook, and a very slight alteration in the form of the shuttle. This threader needle is formed of three metallic strips soldered together in the middle, and diverging at their extremities, so that the thread, on being wound from the bohbin, can easily pass between any two of the four couples of branches formed, without any necessity for the weaver it keen his eyes on the thread. As soon as the thread has passed between the threader needle it can be passed by the weaver with the greatest facility through the small eyes in the shuttle without having to suck it through. The shuttle has special recesses for admitting the needle or hook. s hook, and a very slight alteration in the form An English firm are manufacturing a novelty

the shape of a wholly pneumatic wheel, which consists of a flattened spherical chamber filled ith compressed air. The outer shell is made of a material which is slightly yielding in itself, out exceedingly tough, so that it is with difficulty broken or cut into, and inside is an Indiabher chamber conforming to the shape of the shell, which is inflated from outside of the wheel with air under pressure. A pair of metallic wheel with air under pressure. A pair of metallic plates are affixed to the wheel, one on either aide, there being an open tube connecting the plates and passing through the centre of the wheel, and passing through this tube, and is secured to the wheel, and there is a small valve in the inside of the wheel connected with the air chamber, so that the wheel connected with the air chamber, so that the wheel connected with the air chamber, so that the wheel connected with ed at any time, or, if deflated by long use or any other cause, it can be readily inflated. A dog cart mounted on a pair of these wheels, but having also a pair of light springs, was the vehicle by which this system was tried, the wheels being 20% inches in diameter by 5% brand. The vehicle ran very lightly, the crossing of train rails at right stagies being scarcely perceptible, while grantis-pitched roads were as smoothly travursed as those of well-levelled macedain.

UNCLE SAM AND HIS MONEY. HOW HE MAKES, ISSUES, AND TANA

CELS HIS CURRENCY NOTES. Over 2000,000,000 of His Paper Alvays

Outstanding - Its Manufacture, it have and Safeguards, and Final Destruction.

Mr. Maurice L. Muhleman, cashier of the ub-Treasury, is an expert on Uncle Sam and his money matters. Mr. Muhleman has been the chief, next below the Assistant Treasurers here in New York for years, and a Syx remotive asked him the other day for an interview as to all the wrinkles as to how our money is much now much has been issued in a given time, and att of the details of the money making machine of the United States Government. Mr. Muhim man replied: "I observe an article going the rounds of the

papers relative to the issue and redemption of Hank of England notes. The number of many cancelled daily is given at 50,000, and it is ivgarded as quite a large figure. But Uncle Same n the management of his paper money, cancels a good many more notes daily. It is quite prope able that the number of notes destroyed daily has reached 200,000, since the average during 1893 was over 190,000, estimating 300 working days to the year. Our office here in New York alone has sent to Washington as high as 170,000 notes in one day. Of course these note ere replaced by a like or larger number, and so the issue department handles an equal volume of notes. " During the fiscal year 1804 the number of notes of all kinds issued amounted to over 56,-

000,000, of an aggregate value of \$441,000,000 To accomplish this tremendous issue of paper and its redemption when it has done its work among the people requires the labor of many hands and the exercise of great care. First the paper, like that of the Bank of England note, as of a special kind, and made only for the timeron of the content of the cont among the people requires the labor of many paper, like that of the Bank of England note, a

Treasurer to see that not more than the proper number of notes is issued; and the Secretary of the Treasury is equally interested to see that the laws intiting the issues are properly observed.

"To itinstrate this especially, the law provides that there shall be no more than \$346,081,016 of t nited States notes or greenbacks, outstanding, so that the officers are permitted to issue daily only the exact amount which is cancelled and destroyed each day. Therefore the same officers must be satisfied as to the amount redeemed daily. When the Treasurer's force of counters has concluded the count and assortment of a day's receipts of notes, these are cut in baif longitudinally—after cancellation—one-haif going to the office of the Secretary, the other haif to the office of the Secretary, the other haif to the office of the several offices, and destruction follows and is again certified to. Notes are now destroyed by being macerated or ground into pulp with certain chemicals.

"Unlike the notes of the Bank of England.

stroyed by being macerated or ground into passivity certain chemicals.

"Unlike the notes of the Bank of England, our notes which come back to the Treastry in a condition fit for further use are again issued. Thus it is estimated that the average life of notes is about three years. The ones and two have shorter, but the hundreds, five hundreds, and case thousands much longer, lives.

"The Government issues at present three kinds of paper money: United States notes, or greenbacks: silver certificates, representing silver dollars on deposit, and Treasury notes, authorized by the law of 1850. No new issues at horized by the law of 1850. No new issues authorized by the law of 1850. No new issues authorized by the law of 1850. No new issues. kinds of paper money: United States notes, or greenbacks: silver certificates, representing silver dollars on deposit, and Treasury notes, authorized by the law of 1800. No new issues are really made now; only reissues; substituting new for old notes, and small for large denominations, or vice versa, Gold certificates were issued up to April 15, 1803; since that date, under the law or July 12, 182, none are issued, nor reissued, the gold receive having fallen below one hundred millions, at which point the limit under the law was reacest. These gold certificates represent gold actually on deposit and payable on demand. There are now about scie,000,000 of these outstanding.

The limit of issue of 1 inted states notes, as before stated, is \$316,081,000; of silver certificates notore can be issued than there are dollars on more can be issued than there are dollars on more can be issued than there are dollars on more can be issued than there are dollars on more can be issued than there are dollars on more can be issued than there are dollars on more can be saided than there are dollars.

before stated, is \$3.00.081.010; of silver certificates no more can be issued than there are dollars held in or brought to the Treasury; on June 30, 1804, there were outstanding \$5.37.148.304; and the Treasury notes were on that date limited to not more than \$1.52.081.17. We have thus a total Government paper circulation, including the gold certificates, of over \$3.02.000,000;; lassides these the national bank notes bessed by banks under direction of the Comptroller of the Currency and secured by the congruence books, which now amount to about Frument boads, which now amount to a Frum,000, serve to supply the people

\$140,296,600 Of gold certificates only.

"No national bank notes under \$5 have been issued since 1878. There have been issued in of United States notes.
Of sliver certificates
Of Treasury Rolles \$2,651,961,808 aluce 1864

Of aliver certificates 970, become alice 10.3
Of Treasury notes 251, 012, 137 alice 10.0
Of antional bank notes 1.301, 032, 755 alice 10.0
Of good certificates 1.301, 034, 500 alice 10.0 Aggregate to June 30,1894, 87,214,441,020

Aggregate to June 30.1804.87.214.411.029
"The Treasury employs a large force, principally women, to count the notes issued and reschedened, and some of these have become exceedingly expert in the detection of counterfeits. The existence of a good counterfeit is usually followed by the adoption of a new design of screen of mass. Thus there have been all series of United States notes.

"United States notes.
"The Paint Treats his many relatives quite fairly as to mutilated paper manny. If therefifthe a mutilated paper manny. If therefifthe a mutilated paper manny if the pays of the note is presented, he will pay full value for it; on less than three-fifthe, but a learly more than two-fifthe, he pays our half the face value; if youngers a portion of the note is totally destroyed, if, with the remnants,

the note is totally destricted by fire or otherwise, he will pay the full value, if, with the remnants, the unito ky nephew will send him an affidavit showing the facts and containing a certificate of good character. Even if fire has apparently destroyed the note entirely, there is still a chare a for help, because the paper is so tough that if care is exercised the charred note can be maltituded aimost intact, and in such case the 'apperts can readily distinguish the kind and deshound the control of the note. Of course, the wishoundaries of destruction must always he satisfactors, and, moreover, a remnant sufficiently large to identify it as a note must be borth oming. "Finally, notes may be sent to the Treasure.